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ANTHRACITE MUSEUM COMPLEX

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MASTER PLAN FOR THE
VILLAGE OF ECKLEY

PREPARED FOR THE BUREAU OF MUSEUMS
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
JULY, 1972

ALBERT E. PETERS ASSOCIATES
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA



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MASTER PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF ECKLEY ANTHRACITE MUSEUM

The necessity for establishing a Master Plan for the gradual conversion of the Village of Eckley into a "living" museum presentation becomes immediately evident when the complexities of the problem are examined. The village consists of 51 old dwellings, dozens of small outbuildings, a church, and substantial movie sets in the form of a breaker and a country store, all in various stages of repair. Since most of the houses are and will be occupied by tenants, and since great numbers of visitors are anticipated, matters such as water, power and sewerage systems become very important. A public road runs through the length of the community, bringing with it problems of traffic control, safety for visitors and convenience for occupants. Changing some of the rather fragile houses and other structures from private dwellings to public exhibit areas raises questions of proper and accurate historical restoration, structural strengthening to handle greater wear and tear, and compliance with health, fire and safety regulations. The extent and variety of these problems is such that a thorough study of every aspect of the village and its future has been undertaken.

This report contains a summary of many of the findings of the Master Plan studies. It includes an historical account of Eckley from the time of its founding to the present, a description of the types of houses in the village, engineering data, cost studies for significant portions of the work required, as well as recommendations for phasing the work in a series of logical steps leading to the Commission's goal of presenting Eckley as an exciting, meaningful living museum.

THE ANTHRACITE MUSEUM COMPLEX

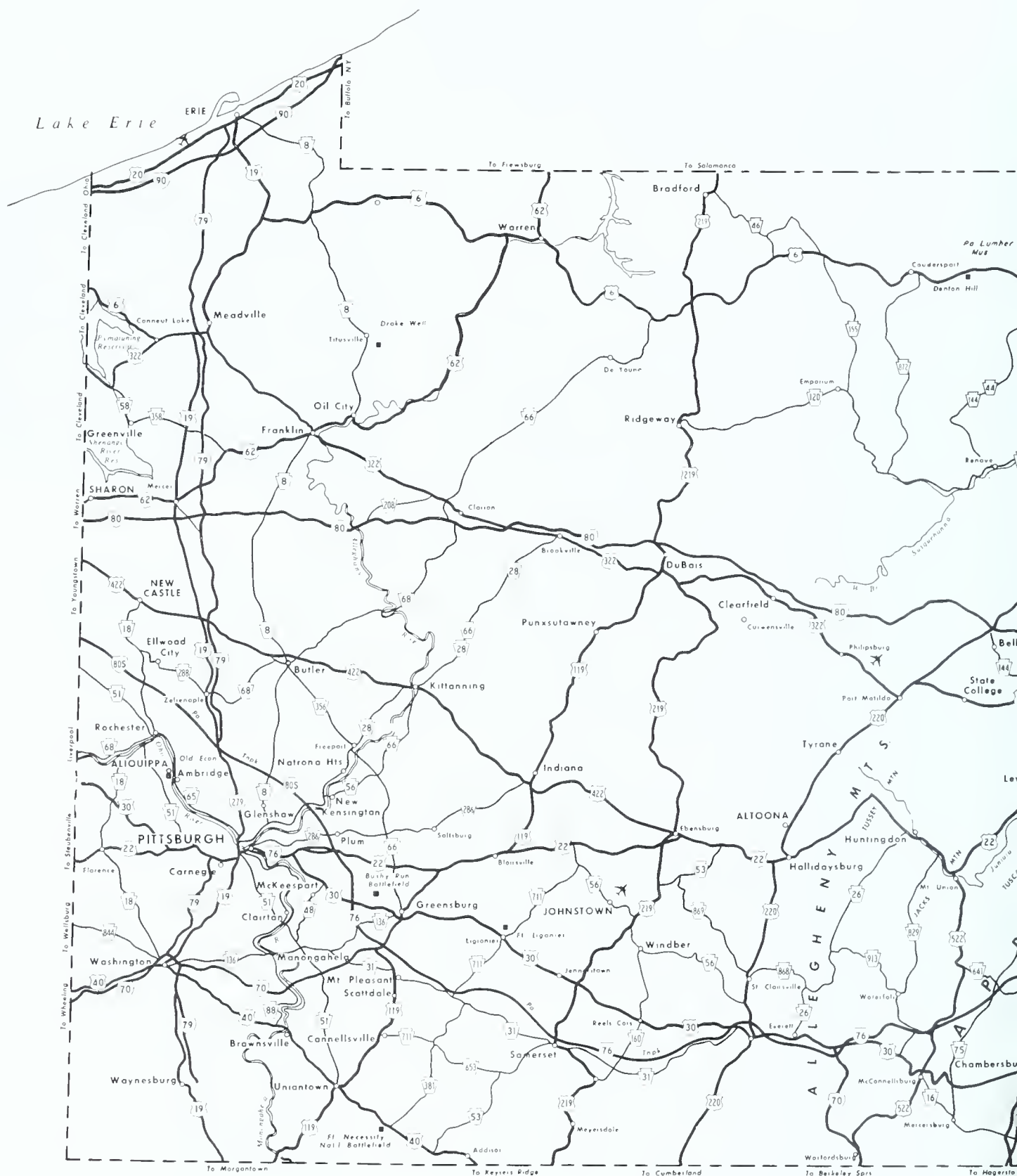
Within the last decade there has been a growing, deepening interest in preserving the history and traditions of Pennsylvania's coal mining industries, both anthracite and bituminous. The noticeable decline in the production of coal, the destruction or abandonment of mining facilities, shifts in technology, the movement of people away from the coal regions — all these and other factors have emphasized the need and spurred the movement to gather and study the artifacts, records and folkways of mining. The industry has been of great importance to Pennsylvania and the nation for more than a century and a half. Coal itself has been and still is a major source of heat and power; and the processes of mining and marketing coal have had tremendous influence on the history of the State. They affected the building of canal, railroad and highway systems; they helped to establish in Pennsylvania a remarkable variety of ethnic groups, cultural patterns, languages and social relationships. They encouraged the development of engineering and tech-



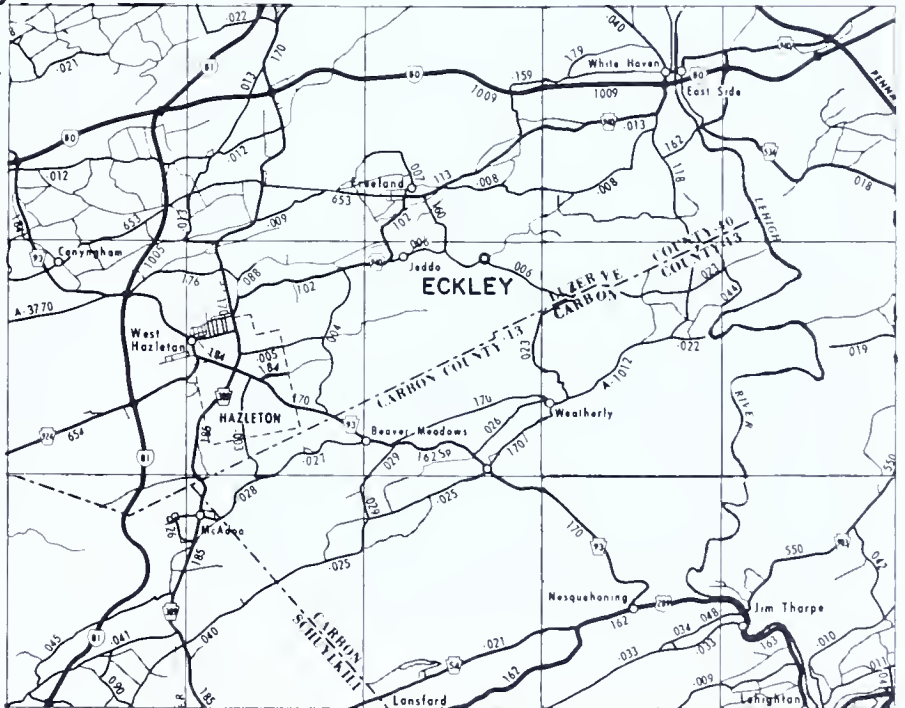
nical skills, prompted the growth of a strong labor union movement, had an impact on state politics, and forced on the national conscience matters of industrial safety. Mining gave rise to dozens of communities, large and small, many consisting only of company houses, the company store, a school and a church or two. And it left behind a scarred landscape, piles of culm, acid-stained streams, and timbered-off mountain sides.

The combination of the deep interest in and importance of this aspect of Pennsylvania's economic and social history has resulted in the establishment by the Historical and Museum Commission of a program for developing three museums, one archival repository, and one historical center, all related to anthracite, as well as a large museum devoted to bituminous coal and coke. The three Anthracite Museums are to be located at Eckley (the subject of this Report), at Ashland and at Scranton. The archival repository will be near Wilkes-Barre, and the historical center near Shamokin. The bituminous museum will be in the vicinity of Connellsville, in Western Pennsylvania.

The separation of the Anthracite Museum into three distinct units was governed in part by the existence of certain distinct features near each site. In and around Scranton can still be found a great variety of ethnic groups holding fast to many of their unique cultural and social traditions. It remains the largest center of corporate and financial activity of the hard coal regions and is even today surrounded by many active mining operations. The museum at Scranton will take advantage and concentrate on these particular local resources. The geological and technical story of mining will be told at Ashland where visitors can enter a nearby mine tunnel to see the methods of mining and the conditions under which miners worked. The village of Eckley provides the opportunity of presenting graphically the story of the every-day life of the miner and his family, under the shadow of the coal breaker and amid the bustle of the colliery. Visitors will be encouraged to move from each of these museums to the others in order to find, experience and enjoy the full story of this most important part of Pennsylvania's heritage.



The Village of Eckley is located in Luzerne County, in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania. Its geographic location places it near the center of Pennsylvania's hard coal mining area. Eckley is to be one unit in the Anthracite Museum Complex, whose headquarters will be in Scranton. New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, comprising one of the major population centers in the nation, are within a short distance of the village of Eckley. The major highway junction of Interstates 80 and 81 is only a few miles northwest of the town, and within fifteen miles is the interchange of the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate 80. The ease of access to the area and the concentration of population should provide the Village of Eckley with substantial visitation each year. Its proximity to the Pocono Resort area will further increase its visitor potential.



ECKLEY AREA

A SHORT HISTORY OF ECKLEY FOSTER TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

When four men rode into Shingletown, eight miles east of the booming coal town of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, in the Spring of 1853, little did the few inhabitants, mostly itinerate woodsmen who made shingles for a living, realize that thousands of tons of anthracite coal would be mined right from under them in the next few years. The prospectors, Richard Sharpe, Francis Weiss, Asa Lansford Foster, and John Leisenring, satisfied that enough coal was there to make a business venture worthwhile, formed a partnership under the name of Sharpe, Weiss and Company and petitioned Judge Tench Coxe, owner of the land, for a lease to the property.

Within a year Shingletown was expanded into a busy anthracite coal patch. Miners began opening a slope to get at the coal vein, the Mammoth, and in 1855 the first loads of coal were shipped from the Council Ridge Colliery. By 1860 the town had 150 houses, a store, buildings from which the coal operation was run and a population of 500 people.

The town assumed a new name, Fillmore, soon after the coal operators took over, but the name had to be changed once more because there already was a post office address by that name elsewhere in Pennsylvania. In 1857 the town was renamed Eckley; Coxe family tradition has held that it was named for Sarah Eckley of New Jersey, who married Colonel Daniel Coxe in the early 1700's, while other sources say it was named for Tench Coxe's son, Eckley B. Coxe.

By 1861, the town had grown and could boast three churches and three schools, a hotel, butcher shop, tailor shop, doctor's office, sawmill and a large breaker. The coal operators had proved their prospecting venture a success and the miners continued to bring tons of the "black stones" from inside the earth to the surface for shipment to the east coast markets.

The Civil War took many laborers from the village into the ranks of the Union Army, most of the men enlisting in Co. K, 81st Pennsylvania Infantry, but the miners stayed at their jobs, producing anthracite coal for the lucrative steamboat trade and for the United States Navy.

The hazards of the coal business—mine accidents, fluctuating prices, strikes—were all felt at Eckley, but it seems that throughout the history of this village the problems, disasters and walkouts were fewer than in other coal operations of the State. In 1872, Eckley felt the results of a short strike, more as an obligation to the pride of the workingman than for any local employee-employer differences—the men leaving their jobs in sympathy to the suppressed miners of the Schuylkill region. Also in 1872 the miners were out of work for three weeks late in the year because of an influenza which caused the horses and mules to get sick, many of them dying in what came to be known nationally as the "Great Epizootic."

The Sharpe, Weiss and Company lease on the land expired at the end of 1874 and Richard Sharpe resolved to retire, rather than to accept different terms for a new lease which would have proved very costly to the Company. One of the partners, John Leisenring, bought out the business and took on a lease under the name of J. Leisenring and Company. John Leisenring, also a member of the board of directors of the Lehigh-Luzerne Railroad, operated the Council Ridge Colliery until 1886 with marked success for a small operator. Under Leisenring's operation the town grew to its greatest size, with a population of about 1500 and three streets of well kept houses and gardens.

When John Leisenring's lease expired, the Coxe Brothers, land owners and coal operators in the Wyoming Valley, took over the operation. Under the superintendancy of Eckley B. Coxe, a trained mining engineer, new slopes were opened, the field expanded to include the workings at nearby Buck Mountain, and a large new breaker constructed in 1893.

New mining techniques were being adopted in the last decade of the 19th Century. Stripping for coal, rather than underground mining, was one of the new innovations. The Coxes leased the Eckley holdings to the Cross Creek Coal Company, which carried out extensive stripping in the area as well as continuing the work underground. With the new stripping operations came unemployment for many miners, and the village of Eckley lost many of its occupants who moved on to new fields in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The turn of the Century saw two changes at Eckley. The Coxe Brothers and Company, Inc. took over the workings and the Eckley and Buck Mountain workings were combined. Less and less underground

work was being done as the Coxe Brothers extended the stripping operations and literally scooped away Council Ridge.

Eckley as a coal operation and as a viable community slowly deteriorated into the wide canyons as huge rock, clay and coal trucks carried the stripped earth from its back door. The breaker was transformed into a washery in 1911 and all coal was trucked to Hazleton to be broken there. The back streets on either side of Main Street saw their buildings fall under the jaws of the steam shovel as the stripping operations continued to expand. Fewer and fewer miners were to be seen in the community that in 1870 boasted almost 1500 inhabitants.

The quiet and often dull life of the village went on day after day. The area witnessed various new bosses as the Coxe Brothers leased the land to the Jeddo-Highland Coal Company, J. Robert Baizley and George Huss. When Coxe Brothers and Company, Inc. finally went out of business in 1963, contractor George Huss purchased the land and the village and continued his stripping operations and the work at the washery.

Eckley just missed becoming a ghost town. In April, 1968, as the movie vans, carpenters, prop-men, helicopters with movie stars and a host of other people from Paramount Pictures moved into the village, a new life blood began to flow. The film "The Molly Maguires" was shot on the streets of Eckley, which had, over the years, changed so little that it still looked like an 1870 mine patch. The setting was perfect, and through use of props and artwork, a breaker, a store and the back streets were resurrected, if only as fronts for movie purposes.

When the movie making was over, and the Paramount film company had left, a group of enthusiastic citizens formed a non-profit corporation called "The Anthracite Historic Site and Museum", and, working closely with the Hazleton Area Chamber of Commerce, set out to acquire the village and preserve it as an unusual example of 19th Century history. The combined groups raised enough money to purchase Eckley from owner George Huss, who acted generously in support of the project. At the same time, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, through Act No. 83, Session of 1969, authorized the Commonwealth, through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to accept title to the village as a gift from the local groups, so that it might be developed and presented as a living museum. The deed was accepted for the Commonwealth by Governor Raymond Shafer in ceremonies at Eckley and recorded on April 8, 1970.

Under the Bureau of Museums of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the

village is to become a most unusual museum operation, telling the social-economic story of the anthracite coal miner, his family and way of life in a mine patch in the heartland of anthracite coal. The Master Plan which follows details this development.

A BRIEF GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF ECKLEY AND VICINITY

Eckley, Pennsylvania owes its origin and subsistence to coal. Geologically, coal is a rock composed essentially of various plant derived organic components and less than 40 percent inorganic components. Although coal was king at Eckley, much of the geologic history of the Eckley area is not necessarily related to the formation of this economically important black rock.

The known geologic story of the Eckley area began about 600 million years ago when a great downwarping of the Earth's crust created an influx of marine water that grew to cover most of what is now Pennsylvania and the states to the south and north of our State. This marine basin continued to exist for many millions of years and gradually expanded to include areas west of Pennsylvania. Rivers and streams originating in highlands to the east and southeast of Pennsylvania swept sand, silt, and clay into the near shore portions of the basin. Limy oozes settled to the bottom in areas that were not affected by deposition of sand and silt. The basin



CARBONIFEROUS FOREST

Photo courtesy of the Carnegie Museum

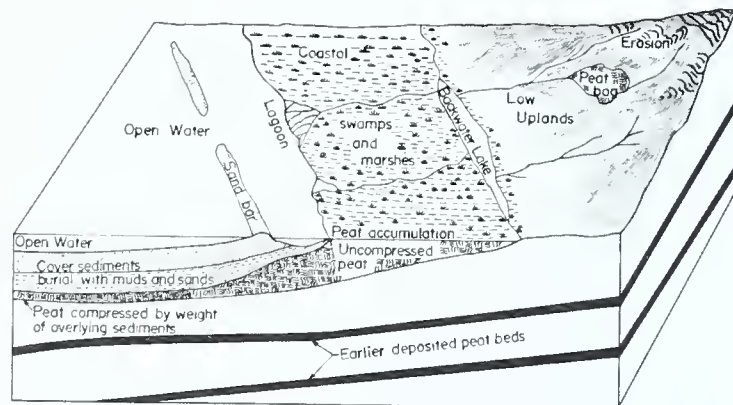
continued to subside as many thousands of feet of sediments were deposited, layer upon layer, upon the 600 million year old land surface.

Deposition of sediments in this huge basin continued throughout most of the Paleozoic Era of geologic time. Several periods of extensive crustal movements during the Paleozoic affected the relative position of land to water. The crustal unrest also affected the rate of deposition and the type of sediments being deposited in the basin. Delta and other types of non-marine sedimentation overlapped the marine sediments in the Eckley area and elsewhere. Finally, the great age of the coal forests, the Pennsylvania Period of the Paleozoic Era, held sway in the Eckley area and throughout most of Pennsylvania.

For almost 20 million years, and until approximately 280 million years ago, coal forming forests flourished in Pennsylvania. Giant horsetails and scale trees grew with ferns and the now totally extinct seed ferns in a swampy environment. Leaves, twigs, and trunks fell into the water until many feet of plant debris was deposited in the rather stagnant waters of the swamps. The sparse supply of oxygen in this environment prevented complete bacterial decomposition of the plant material. Thus, the first stage in coal formation, the peat bed, came to pass.

The Pennsylvanian coal forming forests were located in coastal areas similar to the area occupied by the Dismal Swamp in the Virginia of today. The chief difference was that the sea was located to the west rather than east of the swampy forests. The relative position of the swamps to the sea was ever changing throughout the Pennsylvanian Period. Repeatedly, the sea advanced over the coastal swamps with their contained peat deposits. As the sea advanced over the swamps, streams originating to the east carried sediments into the near shore areas covering the peat deposits with sand, silt, and clay. Following this deposition, the sea would retreat and soon luxuriant vegetation covered the formerly inundated area.

Through the many centuries, former peat beds were buried under many feet of sediments. The pressure exerted by the overlying sediments compressed the peat and drove off moisture and volatile constituents. As water and gases were lost from the peat beds, lignite or brown coal began to form. The sand, silt, and clay between the peat beds were compacted and natural cements began to make rock: sandstone, siltstone, and shale respectively. The Pennsylvanian Period slowly drew to a close and the many layers of sediments that we call the Pennsylvanian coal measures were created. These sediments are so well displayed in Pennsylvania that the particular age in which they were formed carries the name of our State throughout the world.



During the geological period following the Pennsylvanian, portions of what is now the eastern United States, including the Eckley area, experienced a great crustal disturbance. The essentially flat lying sediments that were deposited during the Pennsylvanian Period, and older sediments below, were folded into great wrinkles called anticlines and synclines. Faulting was also prevalent. It was probably during this folding or shortly afterwards that the coal in the Eckley area was raised to the rank of anthracite, a metamorphic rock.

All anthracite localities in Pennsylvania are located in the belt of folded sediments. At first glance, one might think that folding alone was responsible for driving off the volatile constituents from a lower rank coal to produce anthracite. Certainly, great pressure is associated with folding. However, laboratory studies indicate that heat rather than pressure is needed to transform a lower rank coal to anthracite. Perhaps the close proximity of the anthracite area to hot cells in the Earth's upper mantle or lower crust and the resultant high geothermal gradient was largely responsible for raising the rank of the contained coal.

The Paleozoic Era drew to a close with the mountain building episode that folded the coal measures. Extensive erosion during the Mesozoic Era reduced the folded belt to a lowland. Uplift and additional erosion during the middle and late Tertiary Period of the Cenozoic Era was largely responsible for the topography we see in the Eckley area today. Erosion of the uplifted folded strata has produced valleys on the easy to erode shales while hard, resistant sandstones and conglomerates remain as ridges. Much of the coal, of course, has been removed by erosion. However, enough of the coal remained to make Eckley a great anthracite mining center.

After 600 million years of known geologic history, all of the exposed rock strata in the immediate Eckley area was formed during the Pennsylvanian Period. Rock strata of earlier geologic periods can be penetrated with the drilling rig. Noteworthy amounts of strata of geologic periods younger than Pennsylvanian were never deposited in the Eckley area. Last but not least, the Pleistocene continental glaciation, with its associated deposits, missed the Eckley area by a few feet.

ECKLEY

THE MINERS' VILLAGE MUSEUM

The goal of making a visit to this small company mining town an exciting and enjoyable experience is a real challenge to museum and historical practices and techniques. The visit must be made meaningful through invoking the atmosphere of a pattern of life almost unknown to Americans today. The ultimate effort, however, should not accept a lesser goal, for the reason that opportunity to achieve this at Eckley is so great. To use museum terminology, the eventual accomplishment of these ends will rest heavily on the "interpretation" of the village and its surroundings. This in turn will involve the imaginative use of ideas and devices that will interest and encourage response by the visitor; it will require the establishment of a pattern of movement through the village that will be natural and inviting, and it will demand the utmost care in the application of restoration, furnishing and exhibit techniques.

In the years ahead, Eckley will become a much more public place than it has ever been. Before a final interpretive plan can evolve and become fully effective, a considerable amount of basic architectural, structural and engineering work must be completed. The chief areas of concern to be considered in doing this preliminary work are described in this section of the Report.

THE RESTORATION - PRESERVATION PROBLEM

The earliest houses in Eckley were built in 1854. In the years that followed, more of the simple frame structures were put up, quickly and inexpensively, to accommodate the growing labor force required to work in the newly-opened mines and collieries. Considering the extreme simplicity of the construction methods used, it is amazing that so many of the buildings have survived. As the following pages show, several types of houses were constructed, differing from one another chiefly in plan, but not in style or construction. Over the years, a variety of changes occurred: different kinds of siding and roofing were applied, porches and lean-to structures added, some interiors improved through the use of plaster, and so on. Initial investigations have revealed, however, that the basic fabric of the build-

ings has remained unchanged, although concealed by the additions.

The first problem in restoration and preservation therefore has been to determine just what the original houses were like. This has been initiated through on-site architectural examination of several buildings and review of the business records of the builders, the Sharp and Weiss Coal Co. When the original appearance of each house can be described accurately, it will be possible to decide how many houses should be restored to their earliest appearance and how many to later periods to reflect the



gradual changes that took place in the course of the life of the Village. This kind of investigation will also make it possible to establish the best structural solutions to the problems raised by long-term heavy public visitation. The best methods for concealing necessary heating, water, sanitary and electrical systems will also be resolved in part by architectural analysis of each house.

Many of the outbuildings still to be seen were a part of the original landscape at Eckley, but just as many were added as the years passed. The wash shanties and the privies were contemporary with the first houses, but the garages and miscellaneous sheds were later additions. Careful analysis of each individual lot, with its gardens, fences and outbuildings is still another important part of the restoration program.

Historical records indicate there were many buildings once standing in Eckley that have been gone for years. The original sawmill operation, which pre-dates the coal operations, the first company store, a hotel, the railroad station, two churches, and a variety of work shops have all disappeared. Con-

tinuing research will help to pinpoint each of these, for location, appearance and function, and eventually all or most of them will be rebuilt to complete the full picture.

Restoration at Eckley does not require major decisions on architectural refinements or esthetics, but it does call for very careful inspection of the building methods and materials employed as well as the uses made of each building, room, garden and outbuilding.

ENGINEERING PROBLEMS

In the 1850's, Eckley quite naturally had no centralized electrical, water or sanitary systems. The heating plants in the individual houses were primitive stoves located in one room, with tin stovepipes passing openly through the second floor to provide a bit of heat to the bedrooms. There were unpaved streets, and very little street lighting, if any. As with electrical and other systems, there were no telephones, and no television antennas perched on roofs or chimneys.

But since most of the houses in Eckley will be inhabited by tenants, and the other houses, as exhibits, will have many thousands of visitors each year, it will be necessary to provide all the services made possible by these systems. Water, electricity and telephone services have been installed in the Village, but it will be the task of the engineering survey to measure the capacity of each against the projected needs of the future, and, should they prove to be inadequate, to design new systems. A centralized sanitary system, and its effect on each dwelling, must also be studied and designed in accord with current health and environmental requirements. A television cable system for the occupied houses must also be investigated and designed.



Fuel feasibility studies must be made and various types of domestic heating plants examined to provide the basis for planning safe, efficient, and concealed heating systems for the restored buildings.

Changes to the main street through the Village, development of pathways, walks, improved grading and drainage, safety lighting — these and similar details will require full engineering review.

THE ACCESS PROBLEM

Although Eckley is well situated in relation to major interstate expressways and state highways, the secondary roads leading directly to the Village are completely inadequate. These roads have been shifted and relocated to permit continuing strip mining in the area, are narrow and winding, and have exceedingly rough surfaces. Improvement of these conditions is essential if visitation to the site is to reach its full potential in the future. Review and study of the problem, with recommendations for a schedule of improvements in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, is a part of the Master Plan Study.

A satisfactory solution to the matter of getting better roads into Eckley must include ultimately the relocation of the existing Legislative Route No. 40006, which serves presently as the main street through the Village. At present, it is the only means of passing from one end of Eckley to the other. In time, this route must be redesigned to by-pass the Village so that the restored town can recapture the flavor of the mid-nineteenth century without the intrusion of cars, buses, and trucks. Safety for visitors and residents both is an equally important factor in the relocation of this road. The main street is narrow, and if visitors are to stroll from one end of the Village to the other, or ride period vehicles as part of an internal museum transportation system, the heavy flow of public traffic must be directed elsewhere. Hidden, off-street parking, with suitable access, must be provided for visitors. The public parking areas must be designed in conjunction with a visitor control and admissions point in the Visitor Center.

THE VISITOR PROBLEM

From the foregoing, it is clear that every possible step will be taken to re-establish in Eckley a clear and immediately recognizable picture of the way of life of the anthracite miner and his family during the second half of the 1800's and into the early part of this century. But while keeping this objective foremost in mind, the needs and desires, the com-

fort, convenience and safety of the visitor must also be recognized. The visitor problem therefore requires careful analysis, and the plans and programs developed for Eckley must include suitable accommodations for him. His interests must be well cared for from the moment the visitor parks his car or steps off a bus. Adequate parking, an inviting approach to the Visitor Center, a pleasant reception area, restroom facilities, and eye-catching exhibit space all must be provided. Convenient walks and pathways and interesting and revealing directional and informational mate-

rial will have to be incorporated into the right places as he moves through the Village and the exhibits along the way. Rest areas, additional restrooms, a souvenir shop and possibly a refreshment oasis-area will be needed at some point along his tour route.



Many of the provisions for these requirements will be met as the restoration and engineering problems are resolved, and others as the interpretation plan is worked out. The Master Plan provides the means of coordinating all of these elements into an attractive, effective whole.

THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION

In its present form, Eckley consists of 51 dwellings, a church, a small social club, and replicas of a coal breaker, a company store and a mule barn. The last three structures were built as props for Paramount Studios' film, "The Molly McGuires."

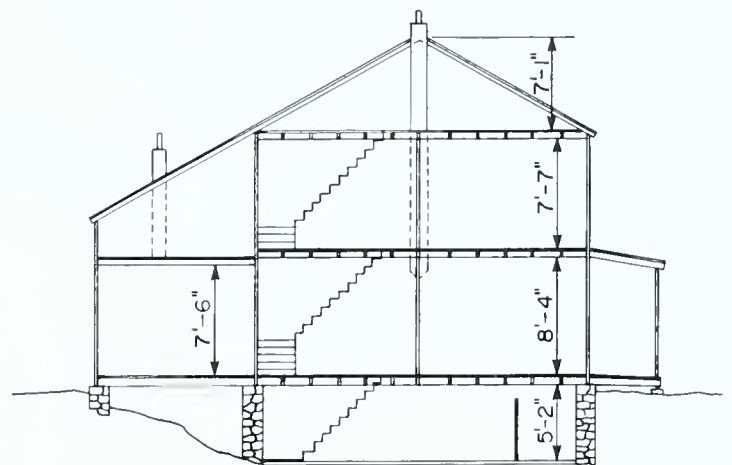


Examination of the site has revealed evidence of the foundations of the hotel, the post office-store, two churches, and a sawmill. Historical records and old photographs provide evidence of the two original coal-breakers, their associated shops and railroad trackage.



Several different architectural designs and methods of construction are found in the surviving dwellings. Because many are in poor structural condition, an extensive program of repair and restoration will be needed as part of the long-range development.

There are eleven small single dwellings located as a group along the south side of Main Street, near the center of the Village. All but one are presently occupied and in good repair. They appear to have been occupied continuously since they were built, hence their good condition.



HOUSE NO. 126 & 128



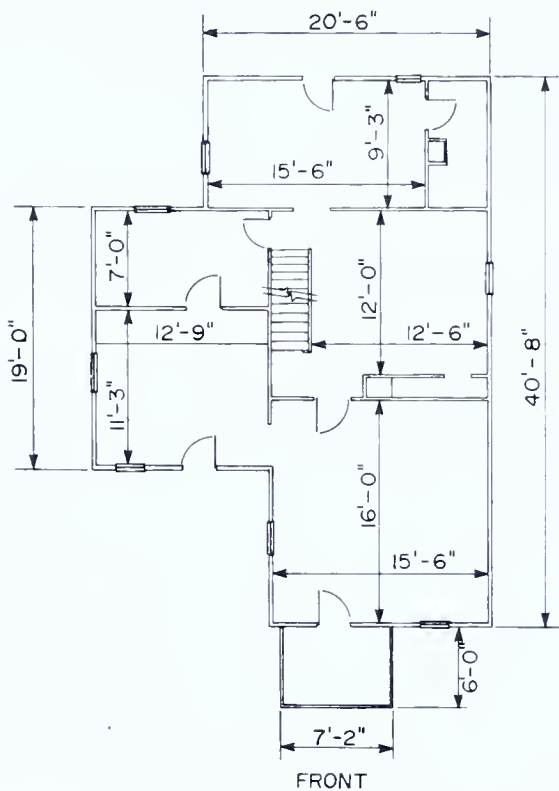
There are thirty-two double occupancy dwellings, similar in floor plan, but of varying architectural styles. Four are full two-story buildings, with gable ends facing front and rear; on twelve the gables appear on the sides. Sixteen one-and-one half story double houses also have gables at the sides.

Eckley once had two additional streets which ran parallel to Main Street. Only three houses stand along the remains of one of these streets. Architect-

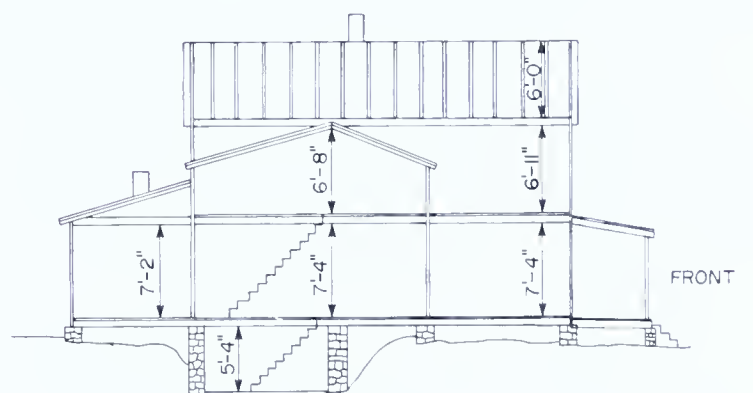
There are five other single houses larger and more elaborate than the rest, which were built for the officials of the coal company and for the clergy. At present, three of these are in good repair, but two are in poor condition.



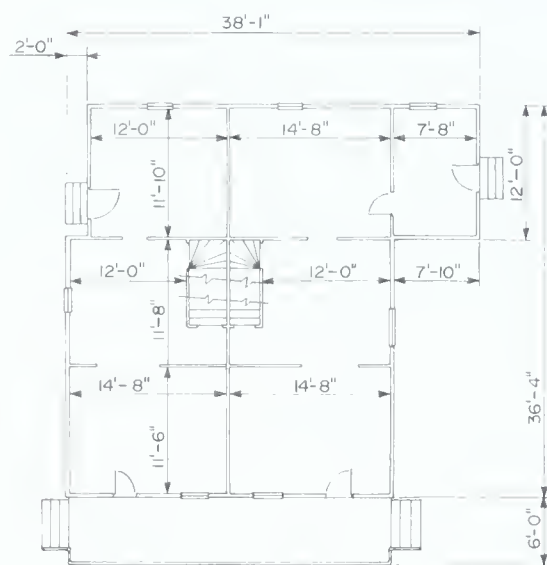
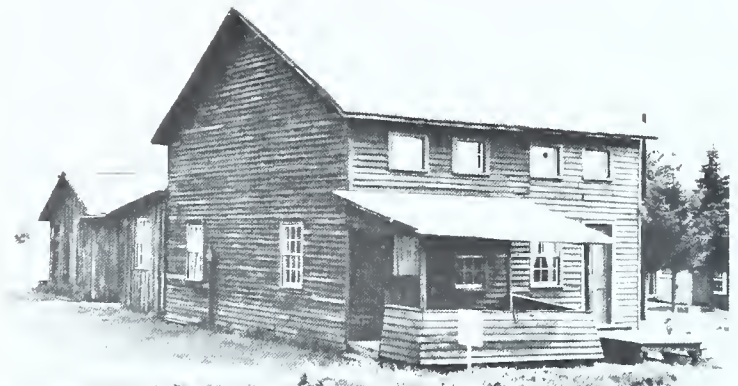
urally, they are distinct from the rest of the houses, for they are done in a salt-box style. Two of these are vacant and in poor repair; one is occupied and in fair condition.



HOUSE NO. 137
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

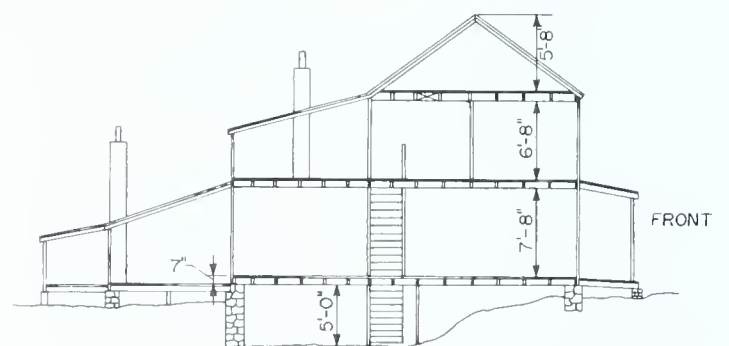


HOUSE NO. 137



FRONT

HOUSE NO. 126 & 128
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



HOUSE NO. 129 & 131

Eckley once had three churches: Episcopal, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic; only the last remains and will be part of the restoration. The Presbyterian Church was dismantled and moved to Freeland, where it still stands. After it was moved, it was veneered in brick.



The Roman Catholic Church and its Rectory occupy a prominent location at the end of Main Street, opposite the site of the Visitor Center. When restored, it will be the first building to be visited on a tour of the community.

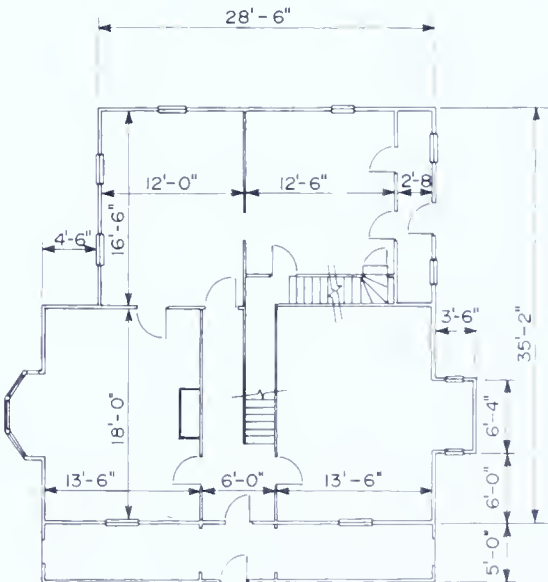
When funds permit, the other church structures will be reconstructed. In one of them, a reproduction of the first Village School will be planned.



The restoration and development of Eckley into an outdoor, living museum presents many serious challenges to the Historical and Museum Commission. In addition to the historical problems, utility systems acceptable to contemporary standards must be established.

Eckley, as with most coal towns, was quickly and cheaply built. Much repair and restoration work will have to be done to the mud-mortared stone foundations and the wooden-structured framing which has been subjected to rotting and decay. Siding and roofs also need attention.

Detailed research will continue to establish the exact appearance of the Hotel, Post Office-Store, the two Breakers and other original structures. These, will be worked into the final development program.



FRONT

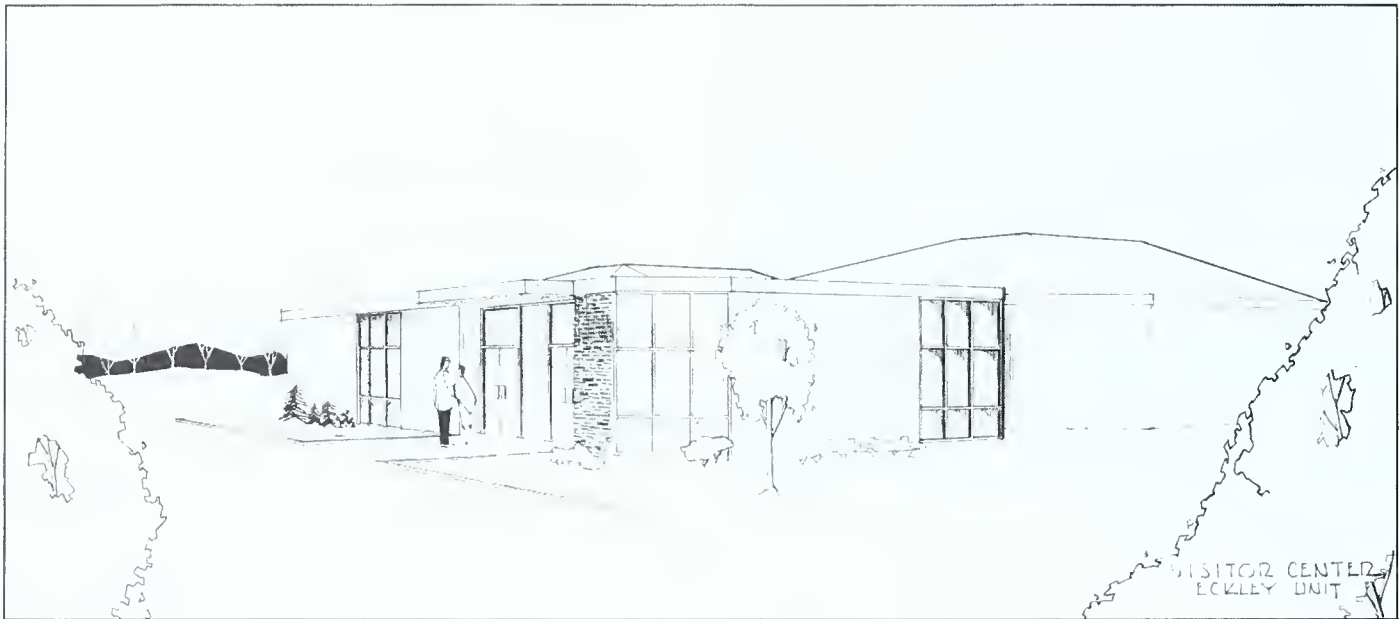
RECTORY
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

ECKLEY MASTER PLAN

A contemporary Visitors Center will be built at the new east entrance to the village. An improved highway now proposed from Freeland to Weatherly, Pennsylvania is contemplated to bring the museum visitor to the highest elevation of the village, where this new structure will serve as the admission's point to the whole project. Here the visitor will be introduced to the village and the story of coal and to the

geological picture which produced this natural resource in eastern Pennsylvania. Here too, the visitor will see the life and social patterns of the miner and his family that made Eckley and its many counterparts a significant part of the Commonwealth's history.

The ten thousand square foot structure will house an exhibits gallery, an orientation theatre and a central village information post. Curatorial offices and an exhibits maintenance area are also included. Public rest rooms will be provided and a 75 auto parking area will be constructed for the visitors' convenience.



NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

In order to interpret the whole story of an anthracite miner's village, a number of buildings will have to be reconstructed at Eckley. Time and the stripping operations have removed many structures — all of those on North and South Streets, plus others — which made Eckley a coalpatch mining community. From the account books of Shape, Weiss and Com-

pany, Richard Shape's personal diaries, Company correspondence and early atlases we find some of the following buildings to have been part of the village. None of these buildings is in existence today. Some of these will be reconstructed (perhaps not on their original sites) during the restoration of the village.

Episcopal Church	Two Breakers	Stables
Presbyterian Church	Two Oil Houses	Station House
Saw Mill	Doctor's Office	at the Railroad
Select School House	Tailor Shop	Smith and
Five "neat cottages"	Ice House	Carpenter Shop
(only two remain)	Shoe Shop	Warehouse
Company Store	Butcher Shop	Coal House
A Hotel	Small School House	Log Stable
		Boiler House

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION (Cont.)

Paramount Pictures did reconstruct a breaker and some small buildings around it, as well as a company store and a mule barn. These movie props have been stabilized and will be used in the interpretation of the village.



SAWMILL

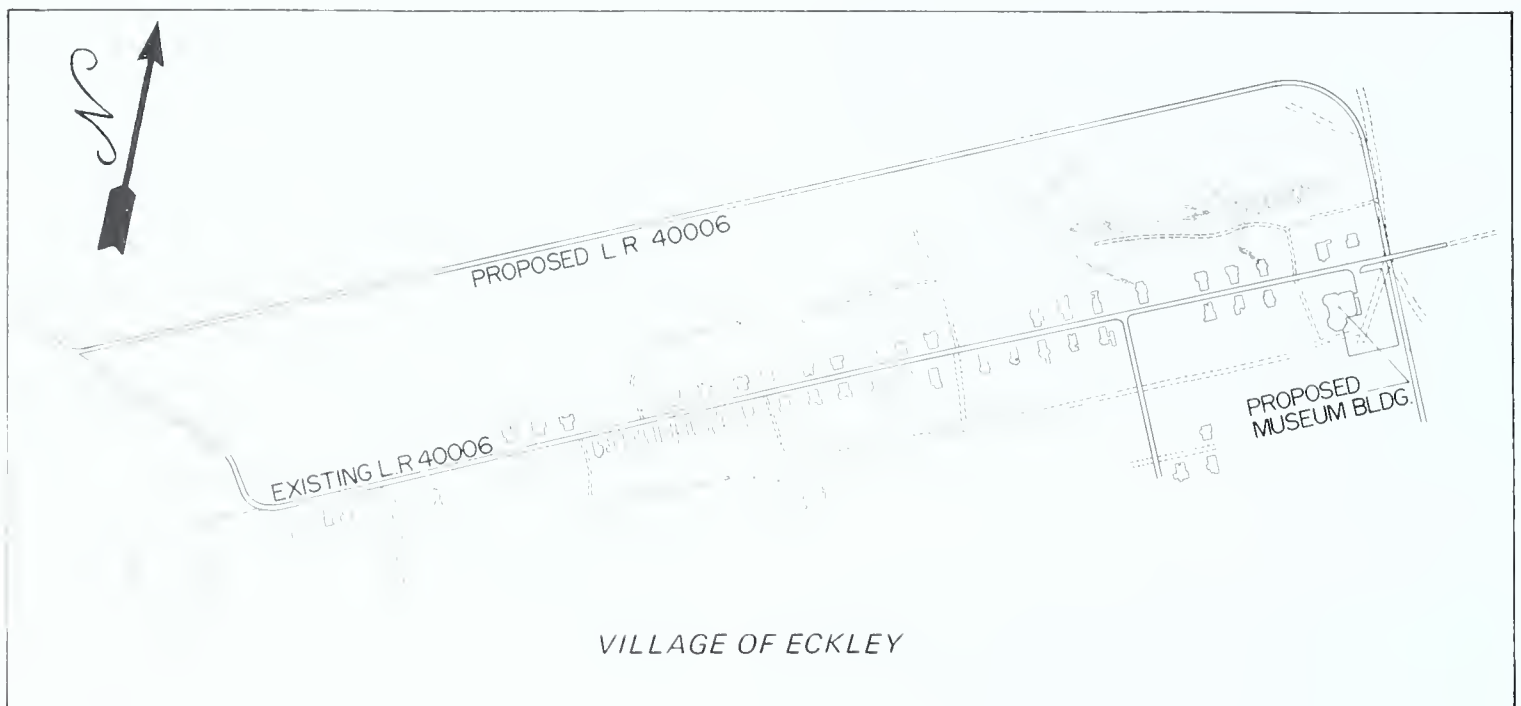
Photographs of some of the structures have been found. An example is the picture of the Presbyterian Church, which was dismantled and moved to Freeland in 1894. Other photographs show the doctor's office and house and the breaker as it appeared around 1905. Further research may turn up still more photographs of some of the buildings, but some will have to be reconstructed on a conjectural basis, using as prototypes surviving structures in other coalpatches in the general area.

Soon after the miners moved into their newly constructed houses at Eckley, representatives of the two prominent Protestant denominations met to discuss the construction of a church building. The Presbyterians decided that each group should have its own place of worship so two churches were constructed side by side, St. James Episcopal Church of Eckley being completed in October, 1858, and The Eckley Presbyterian Church finished in time for Christmas services of the same year.

In 1861, the Philadelphia Catholic Diocese created a mission parish in Eckley from the mother-church of St. Joseph's in Laurytown. In those days it was popularly called St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Still surviving today, its rehabilitation has already begun with the rebuilding of the roof. Major restoration of the exterior and interior will be researched and accomplished as part of this master-plan.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



TRAFFIC CONTROL

The highway system approaching Eckley, the street through the town, and the unpaved alleys between and to the rear of the buildings may be adequate for the present needs of a quiet residential community, but they are not at all suitable for a community converted in its entirety to serve as a traffic-generating tourist attraction. For the proper development of the Village as an outdoor museum, a sound traffic control program is essential for several reasons: (1) on an historical basis, it will remove from the Main Street vehicles not compatible with the 19th Century; (2) on a visitor control basis, it will permit establishment of a systematic pedestrian flow from exhibit to exhibit; and (3) on a safety basis, it will eliminate the hazard of cars from areas of visitor concentration.

Eckley is served by a State highway (Legislative Route 40006) which carries traffic from the Freeland and Jeddo areas to Weatherly. This highway, Main Street in the Village, enters on the West and travels almost three-quarters of the way through Eckley before turning South. The rest of Main Street is a Foster Township road. Maintenance of Main Street therefore falls into two jurisdictions. Traffic on Main Street is not normally heavy or concentrated, but it can be expected to increase as the museum plan develops. Parking is presently permitted along the street, or in spaces between the houses reached by turning off the street.

In order to meet the three conditions cited above and to create a situation in which the traffic generated by the museum may help rather than hinder the Village, the Master Plan recommends that the following steps be undertaken as soon as funds and jurisdictional agreements can be obtained.

The highways leading to Eckley should be improved with better surfaces and shoulders, and difficult curves should be eliminated.

At the point where the highways approach the immediate vicinity of the Village, a by-pass should be constructed on Commission controlled land, to the rear of the houses now standing. From this by-pass, at the eastern end of the Village, a suitable turn-off must be constructed, leading to the parking lot serving the Visitor Center. This will be a convenience and a safety measure for the visitor.

Since Eckley will be, to a great measure, an inhabited town, consideration must be given to the tenants who must be able to approach by car to within a reasonable distance of their houses. For this purpose, presently unpaved alleys and driveways to the rear of the houses will be relocated slightly where necessary, paved, and given access to the by-pass so that the Main Street need not be used by them. Use of Main Street will not be entirely restricted, however. It must be kept usable in the event of an emergency.

Main Street itself must be regraded to improve the existing difficult drainage problem. Investigation must be made to determine the type of road surface which will best recreate the early appearance of the street without occasioning mud and dust problems. Boardwalks for visitors should be constructed so that tours through the Village can be made in comfort and safety, and yet be controlled to achieve the maximum benefit in looking at the exhibits within a limited time schedule.

In summary, it is imperative to the success of Eckley as an Outdoor Museum that traffic be taken off Main Street and rerouted around the Village.

COST SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE FOR IMPROVEMENT

SCOPE OF WORK
(listed in suggested order of proposed
construction)

COST
ESTIMATES

1. Site Work - Removal of Mine
refuse banks, backfill stripping
pits and general cleanup \$ 100,000.00
2. Water supply including mains,
laterals, service and fire
hydrants. \$ 325,000.00
3. Sewerage — including sani-
tary collection system,
treatment plant and outfall. \$ 375,000.00
4. Supplemental electrical under-
ground distribution system
and services required for even-
tual conversion to total
electrical heat, light and
power. Underground tele-
phone, fire alarm system,
cable T.V. Distribution
system and services. \$ 250,000.00
5. Roads, streets, cartways,
walkways, street lighting,
storm drainage. \$ 685,000.00

6. Renovation of (15) single
dwellings and (31) double
dwellings to include:
Heating system
Plumbing system
Electrical system
Kitchen
Bath and toilet facilities
Flooring, partitions,
Structural stabilizing
Windows, siding, insulation
Fencing
Relocated drives. \$1,420,000.00
7. Renovate:
(a) Church
(b) Rectory
(c) Dwelling 147, 160½ and
211 (large structures)
(d) Emerald House. \$ 490,000.00
8. General landscaping. \$ 175,000.00

Total \$3,820,000.00

THE ABOVE ESTIMATES ARE EXCLUSIVE
OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL COSTS,
DESIGN FEES AND TESTING AND INSPEC-
TION SERVICES.

CONCLUSION

Throughout the United States, and abroad, there have been many ambitious and successful efforts to preserve or to recreate entire communities of historical or architectural importance, and to make outdoor, living museums of them. For the most part, these preservation projects have been associated with the 17th and 18th Centuries, or earlier. Here at Eckley, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will preserve for posterity a village of a much later period — the latter half of the 19th Century — and one whose existence and life span was entirely related to an extractive, or mining industry.

Considering the swift rate of change in places and people which we have experienced since the mid-point of the 20th Century, it is unquestionably very fortunate that the Commission has been enabled to undertake this project at this time. The anthracite mining industry has recently declined in economic importance in Pennsylvania, and many of the towns, most of the equipment, and a great portion of the people associated with the industry, have rapidly been disappearing from the scene. Within a few years, much of the vital detail will be gone unless the Commission is successful in finding, collecting and preserving it now.

The Village of Eckley, when restored to its appearance of the late 1800's, will do much to help the visitor and the scholar alike to appreciate, learn and understand many of the significant aspects of the industry. Eckley, together with the other museums and archival depositories now planned, will provide a very comprehensive historical picture of the anthracite coal regions, its people, labor, technology, and economics. This will be the most thoroughly covered industry, museum-wise, in the country.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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